

Corporate Report

NO: R026

COUNCIL DATE: February 9,

2004



REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: February 3, 2004

FROM: General Manager, Engineering

FILE: 5360-15
3900-01

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Surrey Highway and Traffic By-law No. 13007 to Include a Provision for the Handling of Discarded Shopping Carts

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Approve amendments to Surrey's Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007, to include Section 82.1, titled "Discarded Shopping Carts" as documented in this report, which will act to impose fees for the retrieval of discarded shopping carts collected by the City.
2. Authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the necessary amendment by-law for the required readings.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to include a fee for the retrieval of discarded shopping carts, such that the retrieval and storage fee will act to encourage businesses to improve control of their respective shopping carts and cover the costs for the City to provide the service to collect and store the carts.

DISCUSSION

Through the City of Surrey's street sanitation program, City forces frequently retrieve shopping carts that have been removed from business premises and discarded within our road rights-of-way. The discarded carts are unsightly and pose a hazard and nuisance to users of our roadways.

Over 1,000 shopping carts are retrieved each year in this regard. The City absorbs the associated costs of dealing with this problem.

Our past practice has been to retain shopping carts for a period of thirty (30) days where the carts can be retrieved from the City by the business owner at no cost. Business owners usually retrieve approximately 90% of the carts from the City within the thirty-day period. All remaining (unretrieved) carts are crushed and discarded as scrap metal.

In an effort to reduce the proliferation of this problem, the following process is proposed:

- All shopping carts retrieved by the City will be retained for fifteen (15) business days;
- Shopping carts can be retrieved by the business owner/representative at a fee of \$25 per cart;
- All carts can be retrieved from our central Works Yard located at 6645 – 148 Street in Surrey;

- It is the responsibility of the business owner to check with the City to determine if the City has retrieved their shopping carts; and
- Any cart not retrieved within fifteen (15) business days will be crushed and discarded as scrap metal. Any monies collected for scrap metal shall be retained by the City

The \$25/cart retrieval fee ensures that the City's retrieval and administration costs for dealing with the discarded carts are sufficiently recovered.

Ultimately, the responsibility of managing and controlling shopping carts rests with the business owners. On this premise, the above process will ensure that business owners take the necessary measures to effectively reduce this problem within their respective businesses.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

The following inclusion to the Surrey Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007, is proposed:

Section 82.1. DISCARDED SHOPPING CARTS

1. No person, other than the Engineer or a person or persons authorized by the Engineer, shall place shopping carts in any manner upon a highway or upon any structure on a highway.
2. Any such shopping cart placed in contravention of Section 82.1(1) may be removed by the Engineer, or such other persons that may be duly authorized from time to time by the Engineer.
3. Any such shopping cart so removed by the Engineer, or such other persons as may be duly authorized from time to time by the Engineer, may be claimed at the City Engineering Works Yard on payment of a fee of \$25 based on the costs of storage and removal of the shopping cart. The City accepts no liability for any damage done to any such shopping carts in any way. Shopping carts not claimed within fifteen (15) clear working days will be destroyed in a manner prescribed by the Engineer.

CONCLUSION

In an effort to minimize the proliferation and handling of discarded shopping carts within Surrey rights-of-way, it is proposed that the Surrey Highway and Traffic By-law, 1997, No. 13007, be amended to include the above provision.

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General Manager, Engineering

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